

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Fogarty on July 15, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

63. (currently amended) A method for managing information with respect to a prison facility, said method comprising:

providing an information management system integrating goods acquisition functionality and telephone calling functionality;

establishing accounts associated with inmates of said prison facility;

establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprising designating a responsible party, other than said particular inmate, to be contact for increasing said funds level when determined to be too low;

using said information management system to conduct transactions associated with inmates of said prison facility, said transactions including at least goods acquisition and telephone calling services, wherein payment for said acquisition of said goods and said telephone calling services of ones of said transactions is provided using appropriate ones of said accounts;

presenting a menu of available services to an inmate, the available services including initiating a telephone call, ordering physical goods from a commissary within the prison facility, and ordering selected physical goods for delivery to a person outside the prison facility;

receiving a selection from the inmate indicating ordering of the selected physical goods for delivery to a person outside the prison facility;

charging an appropriate one of said accounts associated with the inmate for the selected physical goods; ~~and~~

determining when a funds level of a particular one of said accounts associated with a particular goods acquisition transaction is too low;

detecting when the particular inmate places a call to said responsible party using said information management system;

interrupting the call between the particular inmate and said responsible party to play a message soliciting additional funds from the responsible party; and

delivering the selected physical goods to the person outside the prison facility, the person designed by the inmate.

64. (canceled)

65. (currently amended) The method of claim 64 ~~63~~, wherein establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate is accomplished by a person outside of said prison facility.

66. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~64~~ 63, wherein establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprises:

establishing one or more purposes for which said account is to be used.

67. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~64~~ 63, wherein establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprises:

establishing limits with respect to the extent to which said account may be used in conducting one or more types of transactions.

68. (canceled)

69. (canceled)

70. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~69~~ 63, wherein said call is placed contemporaneously with the inmate ordering of the selected physical goods for delivery to a person outside the prison facility.

72. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~69~~ 63, further comprising:
setting a flag with respect to said responsible party when said funds level is determined to be too low, said interacting with said responsible party being accomplished through reference to said flag a next time a call is placed to said responsible party.

80. (currently amended) A computer program product have a computer readable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for use in managing information with respect to a prison facility, said computer program product comprising:
code for providing an information management services integrating goods acquisition functionality and telephone calling functionality;

code for establishing accounts associated with inmates of said prison facility;

code for establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprising designating a responsible party, other than said particular inmate, to be contact for increasing said funds level when determined to be too low;

code for using said information management services to conduct transactions associated with inmates of said prison facility, said transactions including at least goods acquisition and telephone calling services, wherein payment for said transactions is provided using appropriate ones of said accounts;

code for presenting a menu of available services to an inmate, the available services including initiating a telephone call, ordering physical goods from a commissary within the prison facility, and ordering selected physical goods for delivery to a person outside the prison facility;

code for receiving a selection from the inmate indicating ordering of the selected physical goods for delivery to a person outside the prison facility;

code for charging an appropriate one of said accounts associated with the inmate for the selected physical goods; and

code for determining when a funds level of a particular one of said accounts associated with a particular goods acquisition transaction is too low;

code for detecting when the particular inmate places a call to said responsible party using said information management system;

code for interrupting the call between the particular inmate and said responsible party to play a message soliciting additional funds from the responsible party; and

code for delivering the selected physical goods to the person outside the prison facility, the person designed by the inmate.

81. (canceled)

82. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~84~~ 80, wherein said code for establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprises:

code for establishing one or more purposes for which said account is to be used.

83. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~84~~ 80, wherein said code for establishing an account for the benefit of a particular inmate comprises:

code for establishing limits with respect to the extent to which said account may be used in conducting one more types of transactions.

84. (canceled)

85. (canceled)

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Upon review of the evidence at hand, it is hereby concluded that the evidence obtained and made of record, alone or in combination, neither anticipates, reasonably teaches, nor renders obvious the below noted features of applicant's invention as the noted features amount to more than a predictable use of elements in the prior art. The allowable features include a method of "determining when a funds level of a particular one of said accounts associated with a particular goods acquisition transaction is too low, detecting when the particular inmate places a call to said responsible party using said information management system, interrupting the call between the particular inmate and said responsible party to play a message soliciting additional funds from the responsible party, and delivering the selected physical goods to the person outside the prison facility, the person designed by the inmate".

The invention claimed in the independent claims are distinguished from prior art of record, which contains no teaches or suggestions that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method and medium disclosed by Manto with the method and system of Hodge to have enabled a method and medium for the subject matter recited in independent claims 63 and 80. Manto discloses a method and medium for operating a telecommunications device to detect outgoing calls from a calling party to a calling number and determining if there are sufficient funds to complete a call.

Hodge, on the other hand does disclose a method and medium for authenticating users in an institutional facility. However, Manto does not teach or would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in combination with Hodge a method and medium for interrupting a call between a particular inmate and a responsible party to play a message soliciting additional funds from the responsible party for delivering of physical goods to a person outside of the prison facility selected by the inmate. In that regard, the combined teachings of Manto and Hodge do not teach or suggest to one of ordinary skill that the differences between the subject matter recited in independent claims 63 and 80 and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time of invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

The closest non-patent literature prior art of record, Boise dot.com aids transfers of money to prison inmates (Reference U, PTO-892, hereafter known as Boise) discloses methods for sending prison inmates money to spend in commissaries. However, Boise fails to disclose the unique limitation noted above.

In addition to the above, the Examiner emphasizes the interrelation of the above distinguishing elements with the remainder of each respective claim element, and further notes that it is the interrelation that truly distinguishes Applicant's invention from the evidence at hand. Moreover, none of the evidence at hand teaches or suggests the combination of features claimed, nor does there exist an appropriate rationale for further modification of the evidence at hand.

It is hereby asserted by the Examiner that, in light of the above and in further deliberation over all of the evidence at hand, that the claims are allowable as the

evidence at hand does not anticipate the claims and does not render obvious any further modification of the references to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON B. DUNHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-8109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

